



Dear Parents,

September 1, 2011

Welcome to the beginning of the school year! It has been great to meet you and your children. I'm looking forward to a great year together. Here are just a few things for you to keep on your radar as we head into the year.

Scholastic Book Orders: Scholastic Book Orders are going home with your child this week. Please note the opportunity to order online this year, if you choose. This also earns us free books for our class! September book orders are due **Wednesday, September 28th**.

Highlight Magazine: Information on the Highlights Magazine is also going home this week. Please take some time to look over this and indicate whether or not you would like to place an order. *Please return the signed slip, even if you choose not to order, as our class can receive free items for this.*

Hands of Mercy-Sudan: At our Open House, you received information about the Hands of Mercy-Sudan project. We are collecting toothbrushes, "hair pretties," and baseball caps (they may be gently used.) Please bring any collections in by Monday, September 12th.

Spelling: Attached to this newsletter, you will find next week's spelling lists. They are labeled with the grade level, and the unit (i.e. 3rd grade's first unit is 3-1.) Please practice these at home with your child. Our weekly spelling tests will be on Fridays, unless otherwise noted. Our test on unit 1 will be **Friday, September 9th, 2011**.

Memory: While there is no memory this week, please note that we will be starting Memory next **Tuesday, September 6th**. Memory should be practiced each night at home, so that students are ready to recite it the following morning.

Website: I have created a website to help keep you up-to-date on our classroom information. The web address is <http://stpaullux.wikispaces.com/>. The navigation menu is on the left-hand side of the page. The website will have access to Memory calendars, classroom information, news, and more.

Books: We will be sending home books one-at-a-time to be covered. You may use either a cloth cover or simply a paper bag to do so.

Reading: As mentioned before, the 3rd-4th grade reading program this year will focus on encouraging students in good reading habits and working on comprehension, accuracy, fluency, and expanding vocabulary. One simple way you can help with this at home is to encourage your child to read every night. **20 minutes** of reading each night can be a world of a difference for children!

Have a wonderful Labor Day Weekend!

In Christ,

Miss Ruth Bernau